

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on a base of a grip end of the grip portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the grip portion has a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator.

23. (Previously Presented) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein

said grip portion has a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, and

the forceps-port constructing member is coupled to the proximal open end of the base of said grip end so as to provide a forceps-port.

24. (Previously Presented) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said frame has a connection portion detachable from said grip portion.

25.-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the display portion is detachable from the grip portion.

29. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a universal cable is connected to the grip end, the universal cable extending in the same direction as an opening of a forceps-port constructing member.

30. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a joystick.

31. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a trackball.

32. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is a trackpad.

33. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bending operation portion is structured by a four- and eight-directional instruction key.